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Is there a way to search in Google using regular expressions (regex)?

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It would be very useful if Google provided a regular expression search.

Is there a way to do this?

(OBS: I am not talking about false regular expressions like `site:`, `filetype:`, `AND`, `OR` or `"Text"`. I would like to search with a regular expression like `.+[]^`).

For example, is there an application, a site or a Google tool to search things like `*.stackexchange`?

google-search regex

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edited Mar 2 at 21:06
Peter Mortensen
836 1 6 21

asked Oct 8 '11 at 21:51
GarouDan
238 1 3 5

migrated from webmasters.stackexchange.com Oct 8 '11 at 22:00

This question came from our site for pro webmasters.

There is a website called boolify.org that can generate some types regular expressions for Google Search. I think this is about as close as you can get to a "regex search" option. – Anderson Green Sep 26 '12 at 1:37

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asked **2 years ago**
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This feature is not available in classic Google Search and it's not in Google's roadmap. You can learn more about this topic watching the Google video Will Google implement the ability to search with regular expressions?

However, there's one exception. Google Code Search supports regular expressions. Of course, the search target for this topic search engine is reduced to source code only.

It is worth to mention that some Google search keywords can partially replace regular expressions. For example, if you want to search any two-word variation of "search TERM", you can use the wildcard operator.

```
search *
```

will find results for search and any other (one) word. I often use it to check basic English grammar rules or synonyms (e.g., "as easy as *").

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edited Jan 20 '12 at 13:46
Al E.
17.4k 10 44 89

answered Oct 9 '11 at 13:12
Simone Carletti
748 4 11

Google Code Search no longer exists, but there may be alternatives (not that it's relevant to this question) – musefan Aug 29 '13 at 10:29

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5

SymbolHound has an open source code repository search, similar to the now-discontinued Google Code Search option, in addition to a symbol-inclusive web search that indexes programming-related sites such as Stackoverflow.

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edited Jan 20 '12 at 11:15
Alex
15.4k 4 38 63

answered Jan 19 '12 at 21:56
Tom
51 1 1

1 If you are affiliated with SymbolHound please can you state this in your profile. Thanks! – Barry ♦ Jan 20 '12 at 11:18

add comment

4

No, unfortunately not :(. In theory you could make your own search engine and do it, but that would be pretty hard.

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edited Oct 9 '11 at 13:26
Alex
15.4k 4 38 63

answered Oct 8 '11 at 22:14
invisible bob
149 2

add comment

3

> For example, is there a app or a site

Blekko does a Web Grep on a daily basis:

> Everyday, we will run 2 map jobs against our crawl of 4 billion pages. These will be greps for strings, patterns, regex expressions that blekko users submit to us and decide are cool. Got a grep you want to run? Submit it here. If enough people agree with you that this grep is interesting (by voting it up), we'll run it. And we'll post the results here. We make the top 500 results for every grep available for free to anyone who wants it.

While it's not exactly what you want, it's the closest that comes to it.

share improve this answer

answered Oct 11 '11 at 7:42
Sathya ♦
7,435 4 21 60

Very intesting this Blekko site. It's not really a regex but it's a good improvement to web search. Thx about show me this. – GarouDan Oct 18 '11 at 23:09

You're welcome @GarouDan – Sathya ♦ Oct 19 '11 at 6:55

add comment

2

You can write a piece of software to:

1. Take the keywords from the regular expression;
2. Google the keywords and get a list of results;
3. Crawl each resulting URI and filter it with complete regular expression.

Let's study a case: from `site:gog.com` find all games that have Spanish voice-over.

The regular expression is:

```
Audio[^:]*:[^.,]*Spanish
```

It shall match, for example:

```
Audio lanuage: English, German, Spanish, French.
```

And not match:

```
Audio language: only-English. Text language: Spanish.
```

Step 1. Let your software search this on Google:

```
site:gog.com audio Spanish inurl:game
```

`inurl:game` here means only search in game description pages

Step 2. Get the 300 resulting links and crawl into every one of them.

Step 3. Filter the result with the given regular expression:

```
Audio[^:]*:[^.,]*Spanish
```

This should be easy to build. In fact I don't understand why I couldn't find something that is already built that way.

Since search engines can't afford the resource to scan their data with regular expression, this dirty job falls on your part, and your computer should do that with what search engines already provide.

share improve this answer

edited Oct 20 '13 at 6:02
Alex
15.4k 4 38 63

answered Oct 20 '13 at 4:33
Zhang Weiwu
21 1

+1. Thx a lot. This is a very interesting idea, in fact. The main problem is that we probably will need high performance clusters to do something really interesting. – GarouDan Oct 25 '13 at 19:05

add comment

0

You could start with a detailed Google search to cull the target text to search. Then open, say, the top 50 results in multiple tabs and use mingyi's "Fastest Search" Firefox addon to search the results using a regular expression.

share improve this answer

edited Mar 2 at 21:06
Peter Mortensen
836 1 6 21

answered Feb 12 at 0:40
user60402
1

add comment

-2

Google now supports and fully documents the use of RegEx. Here is the link for reference:

http://www.google.com/support/enterprise/static/postini/docs/admin/en/admin_ee_cu/cm_regex.html

share improve this answer

answered Dec 27 '13 at 16:17
Hernan Pelassini
1

2 That's only for Postini. – Al E. Dec 27 '13 at 16:24

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